

Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGISTS and TECHNICIANS assist physicians in diagnosing and treating cardiac (heart) and vascular (blood) ailments. Technologists may specialize in one of the following areas: Invasive cardiology, echocardiography, and vascular technology.

Invasive Cardiovascular Technologists assist physicians with cardiac catheterization procedures in which a small tube, or catheter, is wound through a patient's blood vessel from a spot on the patient's leg into the heart. The procedure can determine if a blockage exists in the blood vessels that supply the heart muscle. Part of the procedure may involve balloon angioplasty, which can be used to treat blockages of blood vessels or heart valves, without the need for heart surgery.

Echocardiograph Technologists perform non-invasive tests using ultrasound equipment. This procedure sends sound waves into the patient's body and processes echoes of the sound waves to form an image of the heart. The Technologists record the image for review and diagnosis by a physician.

Vascular Technologists assist physicians with the diagnosis of circulation disorders. They use ultrasound equipment to record vascular blood flow, blood pressure, limb volume changes, and oxygen saturation. These tests are generally performed during or immediately after surgery.

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNICIANS see *Health Care Careers* on Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technicians.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an associate of arts degree from a two-year community college program for Technologists.
- ▲ Voluntary Technologist certification is available through Cardiovascular Credentialing International or the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.
- ▲ Completion of a one-year certificate-training program (is preferred by some employers), or on the job training for EKG Technicians.
- ▲ Ability to follow detailed instructions.
- ▲ Ability to exercise good judgment in stressful situations.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance may be required by employer.

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Wages

- ▲ Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
Median hourly wage: \$23.14
- ▲ Average annual wage: \$50,077

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

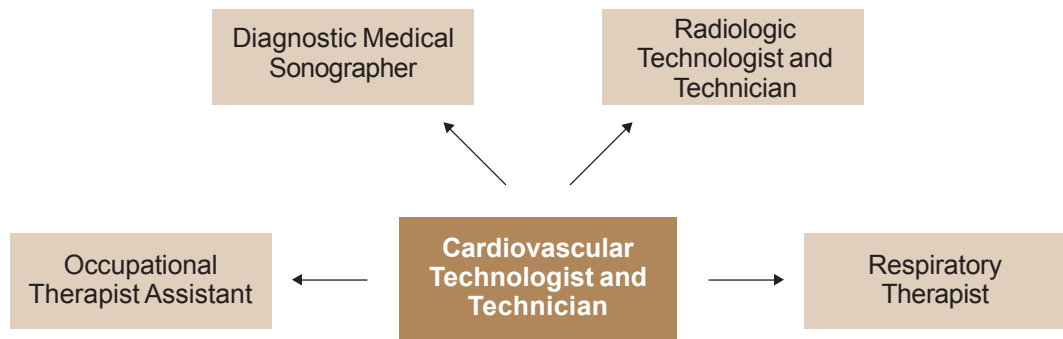
- ▲ Estimated number of Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians in 2004: 2,900
- ▲ Estimated number of Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians in 2014: 3,500
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 110

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals, (919) 861-4546, www.sicp.com.
- ▲ Cardiovascular Credentialing International, (800) 326-0268, www.cci-online.org.
- ▲ *California Occupational Guide*, No. 538
Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technicians

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.